

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Baptist Church

other names/site number 127-1180-0075

2. Location

street & number 325 West Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Council Grove ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Morris code 127 zip code 66846

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Shank D-SHPO May 19, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

First Baptist Church
Name of Property

Morris County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion; religious facility; church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian; Romanesque;

Romanesque Revival; Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Stone: limestone;
Brick; Concrete

roof Other: Asphalt shingles covered
by foam & silicone coating

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture**Period of Significance**

c. 1909-1913

Significant Dates

c. 1909-1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

First Baptist Church
Name of Property

Morris County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4
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7	1	8	1	6	6
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4	2	8	1	8	0	8
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Risdal; National Register Assistant
Martha Hagedorn-Krass; Architectural Historian
organization Kansas State Historical Society date May 19, 1995
street & number 120 West Tenth Street telephone (913) 296-5264
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Council Grove Community Center, Inc.
street & number 108 West Main Street telephone _____
city or town Council Grove state Kansas zip code 66846

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The First Baptist Church (c. 1909-1913) is located at 325 West Main Street in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas (pop. 2,381). The one-story, rusticated limestone, brick, Romanesque and Gothic Revival church sits on a limestone foundation. The building has an overall rectangular form and is surmounted by a complex roof structure. A truncated hipped roof with four gables projections surmounts the west portion of the building, while the east is surmounted by a truncated hipped roof. The two towers have flat roofs. The roofs are composed of asphalt shingles covered by a foam and silicone coating. An entrance tower rises from the northwest corner. Another tower with a secondary entrance is located on the eastern bay of the facade. The building has a northern facade orientation with a secondary elevation to the west. The overall measurements are approximately sixty-five feet east to west and fifty feet north to south.

The First Baptist Church is an eclectic interpretation that combines both the Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles. In ecclesiastical interpretations, such as the First Baptist Church, gable roofs are common, as are arches for all openings, stringcourses and towers. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first story and brick stringcourse at the level of the window lintel. "Massing may be symmetrical or asymmetrical; in churches with two towered facades one is often taller than the other." (Whiffen, p.61) The presence of the Gothic Revival Style is found in the crenelation motif on the tower roof line, quoined corners and convex wall. The roof castellated form and gable roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than over hanging eaves is more closely based on English Medieval models.

The one-story building with a basement that extends above ground level is comprised primarily of two rectangular areas. The sanctuary is approximately 49 feet by 38 feet (west portion of the building) and the remainder is approximately 50 feet by 27 feet (east portion). The exterior is composed of native stone and buff Neodesha pressed brick, trimmed with chocolate brick, red brick and concrete blocks. One chimney rises from the east truncated hipped roof and the another rises from the center of the south elevation.

The First Baptist Church has an overall rectangular form, a complex roof configuration, and an asymmetrical facade. A truncated hipped roof with four gables projections surmounts the west portion of the building, while the east is surmounted by a truncated hipped roof. The two towers have flat roofs. The foundation which extends to the base of the windows is constructed of rusticated limestone blocks. The upper part of the walls, above the limestone, is composed of Neodesha brick. Chocolate brick defines the window and door arches, all corners, and the cornice which is composed of triangular dentils. A concrete block parapet encircles the building. The corners of the parapet are accented with concrete bulbs placed on a pedestal. The northwest tower has a crenelated parapet. A red brick stringcourse located at the level of the window top rail encircles the entire building, except at the northwest tower.

The main entrance into the church is a two-story tower at the northwest corner of the building. Fourteen limestone steps lead up to the door. A double door surmounted by a semi-circular

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transom with two narrow windows above pierce the north facade of the tower. The arches over the doors and windows are composed of chocolate brick. When the building was originally constructed, there was an additional story on the tower. The top story became unstable and was removed sometime prior to September 1939. Today, the two towers today appear approximately the same height, but previous to 1939 the northwest tower was markedly taller, creating a more asymmetrical facade.

A secondary entrance is located on the eastern tower. A double grouping of double hung sash windows pierce the first story. Three, small, square windows are located on the upper portion of the tower. Two double hung sash windows pierce the basement. Between the two towers is a gable. Below the gable is a large arched window divided into three arched windows surmounted by three round windows. On either side of the large window is a narrow arch window. Two windows pierce the basement. The wall east of the tower is convex. Two double hung sash windows pierce the first and basement elevations. The arches over all the doors and windows on the first story are composed of chocolate brick.

A tower, gable, and flat wall compose the west elevation. This secondary elevation faces Third Street. A window surmounted by two narrow windows pierces the west tower elevation. Next to the tower is a gable. Below the gable is a large arched window divided into three arched windows surmounted by three round windows. On either side of the large window is a narrow arch window. A small window is located on southern bay of the west elevation. The arches over the windows on the first floor are composed of chocolate brick. Three double hung sash windows and a door pierce the basement.

The east elevation is composed of (going from north to south) two double sash windows, a large window divided into three sections, and a double hung sash window. The arches over the windows on the first floor are composed of chocolate brick. Four double hung sash windows pierce the basement. A large lintel surmounts the center two windows. The south elevation is pierced by two windows on the first story and two basement windows.

The interior of the church has a high degree of architectural integrity. Other than the removal of the stained glass from the first floor in 1993, the interior appearance is largely unchanged from its original construction. A sanctuary, east meeting room, office and two towers compose the first floor of the church.

The building is entered from the north through a square tower on the northwest corner. A double door on the east or south walls leads into the sanctuary of the church. The south wall of the sanctuary is composed of a raised platform with a circular north edge between two arched enclosures. Two steps on the east, west, and south lead up to the platform. Behind the platform is paneling. The arched enclosures are defined with square, panelled columns placed on a panelled platform holding up a arch decorated with a row of triangles. The west side of the east

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arch enclosure is composed of a door and pointed arch. Another door located directly east of that door leads to the meeting room. To the south of the door is panelling. The windows on the west and north walls reveal their exterior configuration. The interior trim surrounding the windows and doors is defined by pilasters rising from the base blocks meeting the cap trim. The profiles of the pilasters are defined by four incised vertical lines. A row of triangles decorate the cap trim. Tall baseboards define the floor line. The woodwork on the first floor is stained a dark mahogany color. The dark trim contrasts with the painted white walls.

Two large windows and door on the east wall lead to the meeting room. The windows have shutters that pull down and panelling beneath. A north door of these openings leads to the office. The east wall of the rectangular meeting room reveals the exterior window configuration. The woodwork in the meeting room is composed like the woodwork in the sanctuary. A door on the north wall leads to the office.

The basement is accessed by a dogged legged staircase on the south wall of the east meeting room. The windows on the reveal their exterior configuration. All windows have a stained glass border on the upper pane. No trim surrounds the windows. The door surrounds have a flat profile. A street level door on the west elevation leads down to the basement.

The building was used by the First Baptist Church continuously until August 1993, when construction of their new building had progressed to the point that the new building could be occupied. After vacating the old church, the congregation removed the stained glass windows from the main floor of the building, largely for incorporating into the new building. Also removed was the 1909 cornerstone, to be relocated to the new building, and some interior woodwork and exterior concrete ornamentation were removed from the building, but otherwise the building remains substantially intact.

The property was conveyed to the Council Grove Community Center, Inc. by deed dated May 28, 1994. Preliminary architectural plans have been made for conversion of the building for use as a community center, which will require some adaptation of the interior to meet current building code requirements, but it is planned that exterior modifications will be kept to a minimum, and interior modifications also will be intended to be compatible with the building, to ensure the architectural integrity of the structure as much as possible.

Other than the recent removal of the stained glass windows from the first floor level in 1993, and the removal of the upper story of the northwest tower prior to 1939, the exterior appearance of the building is largely unchanged from its original construction. The First Baptist Church reflects all the exterior design characteristics that are commonly found in the ecclesiastical interpretations of the Romanesque and Gothic Revival. The church maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity.

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The First Baptist Church (c. 1909-1913) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as a modified interpretation of the Romanesque and Gothic Revival. Eclecticism in early 20th century styles, notably in ecclesiastical interpretations, leads to a mixture of proportions and elements from the Romanesque and Gothic Revival traditions.

The First Baptist church is an eclectic interpretation that combines both the Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles. "Eclecticism in architecture is that method of design which selects elements from a variety of stylistic sources and combines them in a new and original way. At its worst, eclecticism can be no more than the copying and combining of certain elements from the past. At its best, it can be an imaginative synthesis of ideas which accrues to a new style expressive of a new set of conditions." (Pierson, p.126)

The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by massive articulated wall structures, round arches and powerful vaults, this style was used primarily for churches. Romanesque architecture is based on Roman and Byzantine elements in Western Europe in the early 11th century and lasted until the middle of the 12th century. The Romanesque Revival became popular in America during the second half of the 19th century, and is most frequently applied in church design.

The shift toward Gothic in church design "was in large measure the result of the revival in interest in liturgy promulgated by the Cambridge Society in England, and The Ecclesiologist which it published, as well as by branch societies in the United States." (Roth, p.110-111) The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, wall surface extending into gable without break and windows that extend into the gables.

In ecclesiastical interpretations, such as the First Baptist Church, gable roofs are common, as are arches for all openings, stringcourses and towers. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first story and brick stringcourse at the level of the window lintel. "Massing may be symmetrical or asymmetrical; in churches with two towered facades one is often taller than the other." (Whiffen, p.61) The presence of the Gothic Revival Style is found in the crenelation motif on the tower roof line, quoined corners and convex wall. The roof castellated form and gable roofs ending in high parapeted walls rather than over hanging eaves is more closely based on English Medieval models.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1870 and after a period of dormancy, was reorganized in 1873. The first church building was completed in 1884 and was located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Union Street and Market Street. The building was severely damaged in a major flood in 1903. The following year the congregation purchased lots 7 and 8 in Block 19 for the construction of the new building.

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In 1903 immediately following the extreme high water of that year, it was deemed imperative that a new location be secured, as the water reached a depth of nearly eight feet in the church building. The new lot was secured for \$1000, but construction did not start until June 1905, when work began on the basement. This work continued until November. The footings for the church were begun in September 1905 but construction was interrupted until 1908.

Pledges to construct the church continued through September 1908 when work on the building commenced again. The Council Grove Republican reported that the stone work had been completed and the brick work would begin in the September 30, 1909 edition. The cornerstone was laid on September 22, 1909.

"Work was resumed this fall on the new Baptist church at the corner of Main and Third streets and rushed rapidly as possible, but owing to unfavorable weather the work was greatly delayed and was finally abandoned until spring, when it will be completed as rapidly as possible. This will be one of the finest church buildings in this part of the state when completed and a big improvement to our city." (Council Grove Republican, December 30, 1909)

In the fall of 1910 work had progressed so far that services were held in the east lecture room on the main floor of the building. The room was used for all services until last Sunday when the completed building was put to use on January 12, 1913.

"The building is of native stone and buff Neodesha pressed brick, trimmed with chocolate brick and cement blocks and will cost completed \$14,000. It will seat 350. There is a good basement under the entire building which will be finished and used for Sunday school and other services as the need may come." (Council Grove Republican, January 3, 1913)

"The complete building cost about \$14,000, and there was about \$6,000 of this amount to be raised last Sunday. Of this amount \$3,826 was raised Sunday and about \$250 was added on Monday and plans for a continued canvass for the needed amount have been made." (Council Grove Republican, January 17, 1913)

The southwest portion of the building was reconstructed some time after the original construction was completed. The building was "squared up" by extending the west wall to the south, and by extending the south wall to the west. A close inspection reveals the corners of the original construction; it appears that the stone and brick used in the original construction was simply relocated to create the addition to the southwest corner of the building, making it completely compatible with the remainder of the building. It is not yet been determined when the addition was made, but it is believed to have been done in the early years of the building.

The building was used by the First Baptist Church continuously until August 1993, when construction of their new building had progressed to the point that the new building could be

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occupied. After vacating the old church, the congregation removed the stained glass windows from the main floor of the building, largely for incorporating into the new building. Also removed was the 1909 cornerstone, to be relocated to the new building, and some interior woodwork and exterior concrete ornamentation were removed from the building, but otherwise the building remains substantially intact.

The property was conveyed to the Council Grove Community Center, Inc. by deed dated May 28, 1994. Preliminary architectural plans have been made for conversion of the building for use as a community center, which will require some adaptation of the interior to meet current building code requirements, but it is planned that exterior modifications will be kept to a minimum, and interior modifications also will be intended to be compatible with the building, to ensure the architectural integrity of the structure as much as possible.

Other than the recent removal of the stained glass windows from the first floor level in 1993, and the removal of the upper story of the northwest tower prior to 1939, the exterior appearance of the building is largely unchanged from its original construction. The First Baptist Church reflects all the exterior design characteristics that are commonly found in the ecclesiastical interpretations of the Romanesque and Gothic Revival. The church maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity.

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Kansas Guide, Supplement to the Council Grove Republican, May 1887.

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McClintock, Kenneth W. "Summary of History of the First Baptist Church, Council Grove, Kansas." (August 16, 1994).

Pierson, William. American Buildings and Their Architects: Volume 2. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1979.

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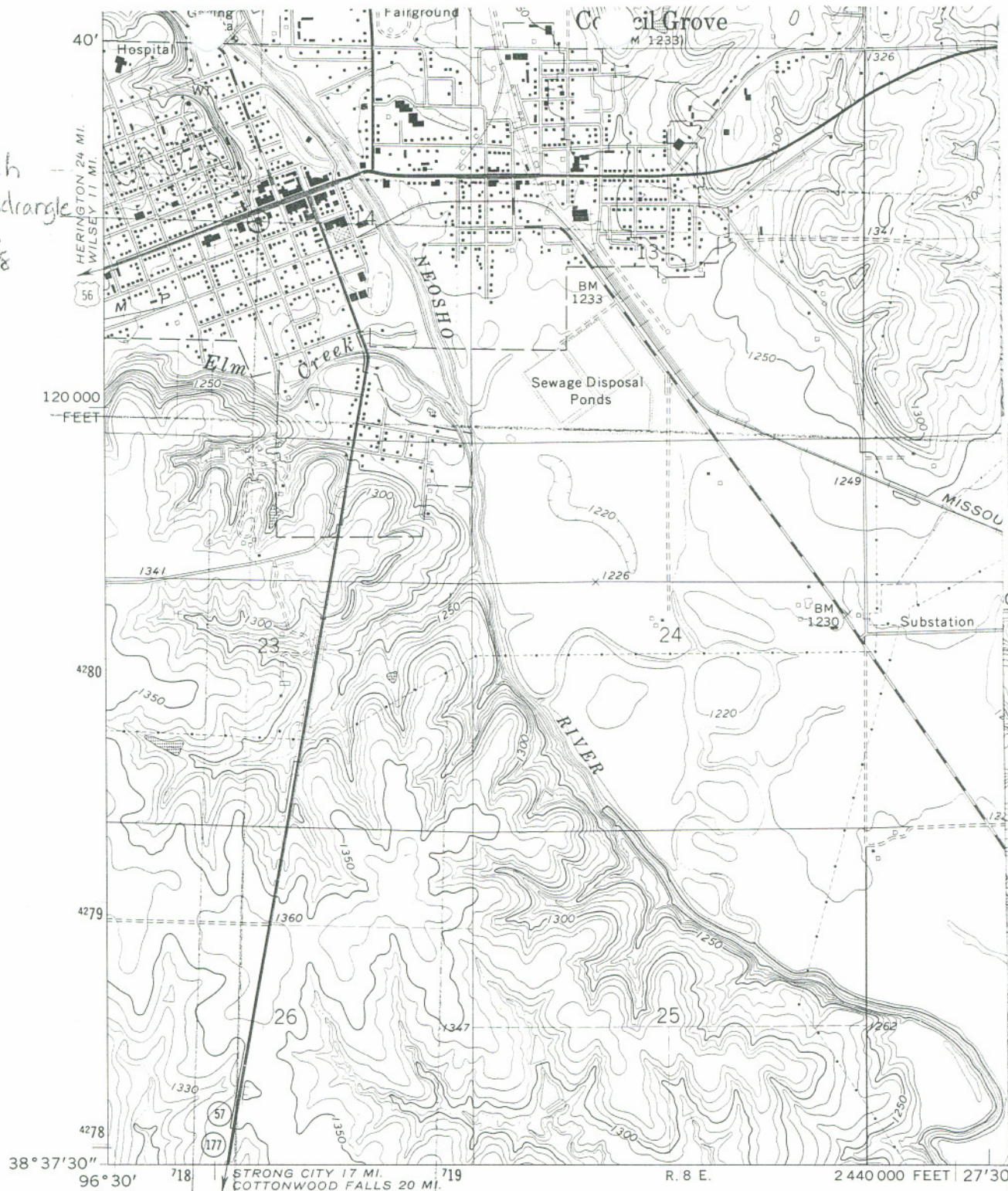
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in Block 19 on the north 90 feet of Lots 7 and 8 in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Main Street, to the east by Third Street, and to the west and south by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all property historically associated with the nominated building.

First Baptist Church
Council Grove Quadrangle
UTM coordinates
14 718166 4281808



(WILSEY SE)
6661 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971

Underwater contours in Council Grove Lake
from USCE maps dated 1944

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 2 meters north and
25 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET